

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1909  
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: ITALIAN REACTION TO ARREST OF SPANISH  
CP SECRETARY CARRILLO

1. SANTIAGO CARRILLO'S ARREST ON THE SIDEWALKS OF MADRID WAS FRONT-PAGE NEWS IN THE ITALIAN PRESS TODAY. WHILE MODERATE AND CONSERVATIVE PAPERS PROVIDED STRAIGHT-FORWARD ACCOUNTS, LEFT MEDIA TREATMENT WAS PREDICTABLY SHRILLER (UNITA CALLED IT "AN ODIOUS GESTURE"). PCI SECRETARY BERLINGUER ISSUED A STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WHICH CALLED ON ITALIAN AND WORLD OPINION "TO EXERCISE THE NECESSARY PRESSURE FOR SANTIAGO CARRILLO'S IMMEDIATE RELEASE." HE DESCRIBED THE ARREST AS "IN CLEAR CONTRADICTION" TO THE GOS'S STATED AIM OF RESTORING DEMOCRACY. SOCIALIST LEADER CRAXI ISSUED A SIMILAR DECLARATION.

2. WHILE THE REACTION OF ITALIAN POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE LEFT WAS PREDICTABLE, THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPOKESMEN IS OF GREATER INTEREST. REPORTEDLY RESPONDING TO A REQUEST BY CRAXI, FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI INSTRUCTED THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN MADRID TO MAKE URGENT REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOS ON THE "PRE-OCCUPATION" OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC OPINION AND THE

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POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE STATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN SPAIN. THE DC'S NEW FOREIGN AFFAIRS HEAD (GRANELLI) ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT DECRYING ALL RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CHARACTERIZING THE ARREST AS A "SERIOUS ACT" WHICH THROWS "A DISQUIETING SHADOW" OVER THE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN.

3. COMMENT: THE GOI'S AND DC'S PROMPT CONDEMNATION OF CARILLO'S ARREST IS OF INTEREST FOR WHAT IT REVEALS ABOUT THE CURRENT ITALIAN POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. IT RECALLS THE ALMOST UNSEEMLY SCCAMBLING BY DC POLITICIANS (E.G. FANFANI) TO INGRATIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE LEFT AT MINIMUM COST BY RECEIVING CARRILLO PROMINENTLY DURING LAST FALL'S SPANISH CP CC MEETING IN ROME. THE ALACRITY IN DEFENDING THE SPANISH CP CONTRASTS WITH THE RELUCTANCE TO COMMENT ON EVENTS EMBARRASSING TO THE LEFT (SUCH AS LAST SUMMER'S SHOOTING OF AN ITALIAN WORKER BY DDR BORDER POLICE OR THE BIERMANN DEPORTATION). BEAUDRY

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